

DFG Determinations of Potential Willow Flycatcher Breeding Habitat

Currently, the DFG's Interior Timberland Planning team generally considers areas to be potential willow flycatcher habitat if the following attributes are present:

- 1) (a) Stands of montane riparian scrub or (b) montane meadows, or parts of such meadows, with a significant riparian scrub component (either scattered clumps or larger aggregations of willows or alders, comprising >20% cover) that are at least 1.0 acre in size and contain little (generally less than 15% cover) or no tree cover.
- 2) Site topographic gradients less than or equal to 5 degrees (8.9%).
- 3) Foraging areas adjacent to riparian shrubs over either open watercourses, areas of standing water, or herbaceous vegetation (foraging areas may occur as gaps within or on the edges of areas of montane riparian scrub, or between areas of riparian shrubs within wet meadow habitats).
- 4) Surface water (in the form of watercourses, ponds, lakes, marshes, seeps, etc.) and/or saturated soils throughout the majority (roughly 60% or greater) of the site through mid-July.

Narrow (generally <50 feet wide) strips of willows and/or alders that parallel well-defined watercourses and are immediately adjacent to upland forests (rather than herbaceous, hydrophytic vegetation) are usually not considered to be potential breeding habitat.

These guidelines are subject to change as additional information about willow flycatcher breeding ecology becomes available to the ITP.